IN THE CLAIMS

1-15.   (Canceled).

16.   (Currently Amended)   An attribute data correction method in a distribution system having a plurality of elements each including a computation device and a storage device, said attribute data correction method being performed by at least one of said plurality of elements, said method comprising the steps of:

storing in said storage device in said one element, an attribute data indicating an attribute of said one element;

receiving an attribute data of said one element, from at least another one of said plurality of elements;

determining, by said computation device in said one element, a content of said attribute data to be held by said one element based on the content of said attribute data received from said another element;

correcting the content of said attribute data stored in said storage device to be coincident with the determined content of said attribute data; and

notifying to said another element said determined content

of said attribute data from said one element,

wherein said determining step determines said content of

said attribute data based upon the majority rule applied to a

plurality of contents received from a plurality of said

elements other than the self element.

17.   (Previously Presented)   An attribute data correction

method according to claim 16, wherein said correcting step

includes a step of judging the necessity of correction by

comparing between said determined content of said attribute

data and said attribute data stored in said storage device.

18.   (Previously Presented)   An attribute data correction

method according to claim 16, wherein said determining step

determines said content of said attribute data within a

specific time period, based upon the attribute data received

from said another element.

19.   (Previously Presented)   An attribute data correction

method according to claim 16, wherein said determining step

determines said content of said attribute data, based upon the

attribute data received from a specific number of said

elements other than said one element.

20.   (Previously Presented)   An attribute data correction

method according to claim 16, wherein said notifying step of

notifying to said another element notifies when all contents

received from said another element are not the same.

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Currently Amended)   An attribute data correction

method in a distribution system having a plurality of elements

each including a computation device and a storage device, said

attribute data correction method being performed by at least

one of said plurality of elements, said method comprising the

steps of:

storing in said storage device in said one element, an

attribute data indicating an attribute of said one element;

receiving an attribute data of said one element, from at

least another one of said plurality of elements;

determining, by said computation device in said one

element, a content of said attribute data to be held by said

one element based on the content of said attribute data

received from said another element;

        correcting the content of said attribute data stored in

said storage device to be coincident with the determined

content of said attribute data; and

        notifying to said another element said determined content

of said attribute data from said one element from said one

element~~according to claim 21~~, further comprising the step of

defining a significance level for each element at a time of

updating, based upon a significance parameter;

        wherein said step of determining the content of said

attribute data determines, based upon a majority rule using

said significance level.

        23.   (Previously Presented)   An attribute data correction

method according to claim 16, wherein said data correction

method is performed when any of said attribute data is

accessed to be read.

        24.   (Previously Presented)   An attribute data correction

method according to claim 16, wherein said data correction

method is performed periodically.

25.   (Previously Presented)   An attribute data correction method according to claim 16, wherein said data correction method is performed at a predetermined time.

26.   (Previously Presented)   An attribute data correction method according to claim 22, wherein said significance level is defined based upon the number of times of updating the stored attribute data and said significance level is used as a weight of an attribute data applied in the majority rule.

27.   (Previously Presented)   An attribute data correction method according to claim 22, wherein said significance level is defined based upon the updating event for the stored attribute data.